



Thomas M. Conway
International President

October 28, 2020

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

The Honorable Eugene Scalia
Secretary of Labor
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Representative Lighthizer and Secretaries Scalia and Pompeo,

As Chair of the Labor Advisory Committee for Trade Negotiations and Trade Policy, I am very concerned about the criminal charges that have been filed against Mexican independent trade union lawyer and attorney Susana Prieto Terrazas by the state governments of Tamaulipas and Chihuahua.

Prieto was jailed in Tamaulipas in June, and has now been ordered to attend court hearings in Chihuahua on Thursday and Friday where it is likely that she will again be detained and incarcerated. Her request to have the hearings on-line was denied despite documentation from her physician that she continues to suffer effects of Covid-19 and is also recovering from recent knee surgery.

These actions appear to be calculated to send a message to workers and their advocates that any attempt to exercise rights guaranteed under the USMCA and Mexico's labor law reforms will be harshly suppressed.

I urge you to communicate these concerns to the Mexican authorities.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Conway
International President